

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

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## Westly Urges Bay Area Residents to Look for Their Share of \$4.8 Billion in Unclaimed Property

### EDS: PHOTOS AND B-ROLL ARE AVAILABLE

**SAN FRANCISCO** – California State Controller Steve Westly today continued his statewide campaign to return \$4.8 billion to the 7.6 million Californians it belongs to by urging Bay Area residents to log on to his new Web sites – [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com) and the Spanish language version [www.encuentresudinero.com](http://www.encuentresudinero.com) – to see if some of the billions are theirs.

Westly was joined by San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who recently found thousands of dollars in unclaimed property that belonged to him.

“You can search 7.6 million accounts on [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com), so the odds are very good that you will find money that belongs to you or someone you know,” Westly said. “We keep accounts forever, so people can find inheritances they never knew about, too.”

Westly took his campaign to the LGBT Center in San Francisco, where he delivered thousands of dollars to people and organizations – including more than \$14,000 to the San Francisco Symphony.

When a bank account or safe deposit box is not accessed for more than 3 years and the bank cannot find the owner, the account balance or box contents are turned over to the Controller's Office for safekeeping. The Controller's Office holds the property in perpetuity, so a property owner or heir can make a claim at any time. The Controller's Office also receives the value of uncashed cashier's checks and money orders; stocks and bonds; paychecks that were never picked up; overpaid utility bills and insurance premiums; and brokerage, escrow and other account balances.

Westly also displayed silver bars, rare coins, diamond jewelry and other items that he is looking to return to owners. Photos are available.

Westly and his staff also helped people at the event find their money on [www.searchthevault.com](http://www.searchthevault.com).

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